

[0037] CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A user interface comprising a simultaneous display of a plurality of actuatable icons, each representing a duplicator, that when actuated simultaneously actuates the respective actuatable duplicator.

2. The user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein:
 - the simultaneous display of the plurality of actuatable icons is a menu screen; and

 - each said actuatable icon is a menu item.

3. The user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein one said duplicator is a default duplicator that, upon the selection of another said duplicator by actuation of the respective actuatable icon thereof, said default duplicator:
 - scans an image;

 - records the scanned image and

 - electronically communicates the recorded image for the duplication thereof on said another said duplicator.

4. The user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein the actuation of the respective duplicators occurs in a chronological sequence selected by the user on the UI.

5. The user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein the actuation of the respective duplicators selected by a user on the UI occurs simultaneously.

6. The user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein the UI displays a choice for selection of actuation of the respective duplicators chronologically, sequentially, or both.

7. The user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein one said duplicator is a default duplicator that, upon the selection of another said duplicator by a user designation of one or more of said actuatable icons the UI:

scans an image;

records the scanned image and

electronically communicates the recorded image for the printing thereof on said another said duplicator selected by the user on the user interface.

8. The user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein each said duplicator has the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of printing, magnetic tape recording, photo imaging substrate recording, recording an optically scanned image onto a magnetic media storage device, magneto optical writing, and electromagnetic radiation broadcasting transmission.

9. The user interface as defined in Claim 8, wherein the printing is performed by a printer having the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of dot matrix printing, thermal ink jet printing, laser printing, color printing, high quality photo reproduction, printing on substrates of varied composition, binding, collating, folding, stacking, stapling, stitching, edge-trimming, and paginating.

10. A user interface having multiple duplicator selections displayed upon a single display screen that, when actuated after selection by a user, initiates duplication tasks on each of the user selected duplicators.

11. The user interface as defined in Claim 10, wherein each said duplicator has the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of printing, magnetic tape recording, photo imaging substrate recording, recording an optically scanned image onto a magnetic media storage device, magneto optical writing, and electromagnetic radiation broadcasting transmission.

12. The user interface as defined in Claim 11, wherein the printing is performed by a printer having the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of dot matrix printing, thermal ink jet printing, laser printing, color printing, high quality photo reproduction, printing on substrates of varied composition, binding, collating, folding, stacking, stapling, stitching, edge-trimming, and paginating.

13. The user interface as defined in Claim 11, wherein one said actuated duplicator is a default duplicator that, upon the actuation thereof:

scans and records an image; and
electronically communicates the recorded image for the printing thereof on another duplicator selected by the user on the user interface.

14. A method for displaying a user interface, the method comprising:

serving a user interface for display as a menu page, the menu page having a simultaneous display of a plurality of actuatable menu items for selection by a user each representing a duplicator that, when actuated by said selection, actuates the respective duplicator; and

upon the actuation of one said actuatable menu item by said selection:

recording an image with a default duplicator by a scanning capability thereof; and

communicating the recorded image to each duplicator corresponding to each actuatable menu item selected on the user interface for duplication on each respective duplicator.

15. The method as defined in Claim 14, wherein the recording of the image comprises recording the scanned image with a media-recording device in communication with the host computer.

16. The method as defined in Claim 14, wherein the recording of the image comprises recording the scanned image with a media-recording device integral to the default duplicator.

17. The method as defined in Claim 14, wherein each said duplicator to which the recorded image is communicated has the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of printing, magnetic tape recording, photo imaging substrate recording, recording an optically scanned image onto a magnetic media storage device, magneto optical writing, and electromagnetic radiation broadcasting transmission.

18. The method as defined in Claim 17, wherein the printing is performed by a printer having the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of dot matrix printing, thermal ink jet printing, laser printing, color printing, high quality photo reproduction, printing on substrates of varied composition, binding, collating, folding, stacking, stapling, stitching, edge-trimming, and paginating.

19. A computer-readable media containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, performs the method as defined in Claim 14.

20. A system for duplicating an image upon multiple duplicators in communication with a host computer, a method comprising:

serving a single user interface for display as a menu page on a screen of a display terminal in communication with the host computer, the menu page having a simultaneous display of a plurality of actuatable menu items selectable by a user each representing a duplicator in communication with the host computer that, when actuated, actuates the respective duplicator; and

executing an application program on the host computer upon the actuation of one said actuatable menu item selected by the user to:

record an image with a default duplicator by a scanning capability thereof; and

communicate the recorded image to each said duplicator corresponding to each actuatable menu item selected on the user interface for the respective duplication thereof.

21. The system as defined in Claim 20, wherein:

each said duplicator and the host computer are in communication through a network;

the scanned image is communicated through the network for recording on a media storage device in communication with the network; and

the recorded image is communicated through the network from said media storage device to each said duplicator corresponding to each actuatable menu item selected on the user interface.

22. The system as defined in Claim 20, wherein each said duplicator to which the recorded image is communicated has the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of printing, magnetic tape recording, photo imaging substrate recording, recording an optically scanned image onto a magnetic media storage device, magneto optical writing, and electromagnetic radiation broadcasting transmission.

23. The system as defined in Claim 20, wherein the printing is performed by a printer having the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of dot matrix printing, thermal ink jet printing, laser printing, color printing, high quality photo reproduction, printing on substrates of varied composition, binding, collating, folding, stacking, stapling, stitching, edge-trimming, and paginating.

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